

**MULTI-COMPONENT TELEPRESENCE
SYSTEM AND METHOD**

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 The present invention provides systems and methods for performing
robotically-assisted surgical procedures on a patient. In particular, a three-component
surgical system is provided that includes a non-sterile drive and control component, a
sterilizable end effector or surgical tool and an intermediate connector component that
10 includes mechanical elements for coupling the surgical tool with the drive and control
component and for transferring motion and electrical signals therebetween. The drive and
control component is shielded from the sterile surgical site, the surgical tool is sterilizable
and disposable and the intermediate connector is sterilizable and reusable. In this manner, the
intermediate connector can be sterilized after a surgical procedure without damaging the
15 motors or electrical connections within the drive and control component of the robotic
system.

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